

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication method comprising:

at a media access controller ~~controllers~~ of all ~~receiving~~ stations in a communication system, detecting, in a received signal, an indication of whether or not a response is expected or whether or not there is an intent to continue and transmitting a detecting result to each station;

at a station receiving, in a received signal, the detecting result indicating an indication ~~that a response is expected or there is an intent to continue~~, interpreting a first idle time slot subsequent to a transmission as being a time that is reserved for a signaled response/continuation, interpreting a second idle time slot subsequent to said transmission as being reserved for a network controller to gain a prioritized medium access, and interpreting a third idle time slot subsequent to said transmission as being a minimum time a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait before commencing a backoff procedure or initiating a transmission, and responding to and continuing communicating with the media access controller in the first idle time slot; and

at a station receiving, within a received signal, the detecting result indicating an ~~indication that a response is not expected or there is no intent to continue~~, redefining an interpretation of an inter-frame space to omit a time slot for responding to and continuing

communicating with the media access controller, interpreting a first idle time slot subsequent to a transmission as being reserved for the network controller to gain a prioritized medium access, and interpreting a second idle time slot subsequent to said transmission as being a minimum time a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait before commencing a backoff procedure or initiating a transmission.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said indication is included in a header of a frame.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said indication is included in a preamble of a frame.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said indication is included in a footer of a frame.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said indication is in the form of one subcarrier or plural subcarriers comprised of subcarriers for data transmission or a combination of subcarriers used for data transmission in a multicarrier symbol of a frame.

Claims 23-27 (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) The wireless communication method according to claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

at the station receiving, within the received signal, the indication that a response is not expected or there is no intent to continue, checking a medium activity indicator determining the end of activity on the medium, and redefining ~~the an~~ interpretation of ~~the an~~ inter-frame space to contain a shorter time slot than a time slot usually allocated when the medium activity indicator is checked.

29. (Currently Amended) The wireless communication method according to claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

at the station receiving, within the received signal, the indication that a response is not expected or there is no intent to continue, resetting a medium activity indicator when no medium activity is indicated at the instant of time that activity is expected as indicated by the medium activity indicator, and redefining ~~the an~~ interpretation of ~~the an~~ inter-frame space to contain a shorter time slot than a time slot usually allocated when the medium activity indicator is reset.

Claim 30 (Cancelled).

31. (New) A station that communicates with a media access controller in a communication system, the station comprising:

a receiver that receives a signal that includes a detecting result indicating whether or not a response is expected or whether or not there is an intent to continue, from the media access controller; and

an interpreter that interprets an idle time slot based on the detecting result, wherein:

when the detecting result indicates a response is expected or there is an intent to continue, the interpreter interprets a first idle time slot subsequent to a transmission as being a time that is reserved for a signaled response/continuation, interprets a second idle time slot subsequent to said transmission as being reserved for a network controller to gain a prioritized medium access, and interprets a third idle time slot subsequent to said transmission as being a minimum time a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait before commencing a backoff procedure or initiating a transmission, and responds to and continues communicating with the media access controller in the first time slot; and

when the detecting result indicates that a response is not expected or there is no intent to continue, the interpreter redefines an interpretation of an inter-frame space to omit a time slot for responding to and continuing communicating with the media access controller, interprets a first idle time slot subsequent to a transmission as being reserved for the a network controller to gain a prioritized medium access, and interprets a second idle time slot subsequent to said transmission as being a minimum time for which a station waiting to initiate a transmission on a medium must wait before commencing a backoff procedure or initiating a transmission.